

Appln. Serial No. 09/995,294
Amendment Dated December 17, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed December 17, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular
2 programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based
3 on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same
4 to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax
5 owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system
6 comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;
10 and

11 a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the
12 merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

13 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
14 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

15 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
16 another;

17 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
18 one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional
19 data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing
20 operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any
21 taxes due on the corresponding transaction, and storing the tax due in a second selected first
22 database file; and

23 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
24 least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second
25 selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an
26 automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the
27 network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the
28 transactional data to the government authority.

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1 2. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular
2 programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based
3 on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same
4 to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax
5 owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system
6 comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the
11 merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional
18 data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing
19 operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any
20 taxes due on the corresponding transaction, and storing the tax due in a second selected first
21 database file;

22 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
23 least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second
24 selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an
25 automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the
26 network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the
27 transactional data to the government authority;

28 a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least
29 one application redundant to that of the third server; and

30 a sixth server hosting a sixth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least
31 one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

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3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network; and

a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction, and storing the tax due in a second selected first database file; and

a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

at least one application for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, for system backup and recovery operations, for system real-time and

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31 continuous accessibility, for operating system monitoring and for system load balancing and
32 scalability.

1 5. (Cancelled)

1 6. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular
2 programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based
3 on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same
4 to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax
5 owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system
6 comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the
11 merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

19 a fourth server processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
20 including

21 a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which
22 comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax
23 remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the
24 transactional data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the
25 corresponding transaction, storing the tax due in a second selected file of the database,
26 converting the second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an
27 automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the

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28 network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the
29 transactional data to the government authority; and
30 an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular
31 functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive
32 communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous
33 accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability
34 module.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular
2 programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based
3 on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same
4 to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax
5 owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system
6 comprising:
7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;
10 a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the
11 merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:
12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;
14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;
16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and
19 a fourth server processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
20 including
21 a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which
22 comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax
23 remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the
24 transactional data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the

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corresponding transaction, storing the tax due in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module;

a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the third server; and

a sixth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a service provider computer system associated with a service provider to which the merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one another;

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16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and
19 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
20 least one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
21 including a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which comprise an
22 applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax remittance module,
23 the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the transactional data in a
24 first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction
25 storing the tax due in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an
26 XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network,
27 and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial
28 institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government
29 authority; and
30 a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least
31 one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fifth server including
32 an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions, including a
33 security module for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, a
34 system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system
35 monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module.

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1 10. (Currently Amended) A service provider computer system associated with a
2 service provider for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data
3 based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the
4 same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the
5 tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the service
6 provider computer system having a modular architecture which comprises:

7 a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with
8 corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider ~~computer system~~;

9 a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based
10 transactional data from the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

11 a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

12 a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing any taxes
13 due on the corresponding transactions, and effecting storage of the taxes due in a second selected
14 file; and

15 a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second
16 selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated
17 clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected
18 financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
19 government authority.

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1 11. (Previously Presented) A program controlled apparatus for automatically identifying
2 taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time
3 any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and
4 periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an
5 interactive communications network, the apparatus having modular architecture which
6 comprises:

7 a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that
8 electronically contacts a service provider each time a taxable transaction is initiated, wherein the
9 subscriber system is associated with a merchant that is a subscriber of the service provider;

10 a service provider computer system associated with the service provider, comprising:

11 a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a
12 server of the service provider computer system, the programming identifying the jurisdiction
13 from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which the
14 merchandise is shipped, the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction;

15 a third device having modular transaction processing programming for
16 consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the
17 second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction;

18 a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically
19 receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the
20 funds corresponding to the taxes due to an account of a selected financial institution;

21 a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of
22 funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

23 a sixth device having modular reporting and/or auditing programming for
24 generating interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

25 a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated
26 generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

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1 12. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled service provider system
2 associated with a service provider and having architecture for providing tax computation and
3 remittance services over an interactive communications network, the service provider system
4 including:

5 a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with
6 corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider system;

7 a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based
8 transactional data from the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

9 a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

10 a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing in real-time
11 any taxes due on the corresponding transaction, and effecting storage of the taxes due in a second
12 selected file; and

13 a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second
14 selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated
15 clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected
16 financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
17 government authority.

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1 13. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled service provider system
2 associated with a service provider and having modular architecture for automatically identifying
3 taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time
4 any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and
5 periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an
6 interactive communications network, the service provider system comprising:

7 a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with
8 corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider ~~computer system~~;

9 a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based
10 transactional data from the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

11 a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

12 a third device having modular tax computation programming computing any taxes due on
13 the corresponding transaction, and effecting storage of the taxes due in a second selected file;

14 and

15 a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second
16 selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated
17 clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected
18 financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
19 government authority.

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1 14. (Previously Presented) A program controlled system having modular architecture
2 for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the
3 transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a
4 selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to
5 the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

6 a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that
7 electronically contacts a service provider each time a taxable transaction is initiated, wherein the
8 subscriber system is associated with a merchant that is a subscriber of the service provider;

9 a service provider computer system associated with the service provider, comprising:

10 a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a
11 server of the service provider computer system, the programming identifying the jurisdiction
12 from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which the
13 merchandise is shipped, the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction;

14 a third device having modular transaction processing programming for
15 consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the
16 second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction;

17 a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically
18 receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the
19 funds corresponding to the taxes due to an account of a selected financial institution;

20 a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of
21 funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

22 a sixth device having modular reporting and auditing programming for generating
23 interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

24 a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated
25 generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

1 15. – 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 1,
2 wherein the service provider computer system further comprises an automated tax return
3 generation and electronic filing system to generate and electronically file a periodic tax return
4 with the selected government authority.

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1 18. (Previously Presented) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 17,
2 wherein the service provider computer system further comprises a reporting system to generate a
3 report of taxes due to the selected government authority.

1 19. (Previously Presented) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 1,
2 further comprising at least one other first server associated with a second merchant that is
3 subscribed to the service provider computer system, the second virtual portal to further receive
4 data from the at least one other first server and to parse the data received from the at least one
5 other server.

1 20. (Currently Amended) A service provider computer system associated with a
2 service provider to provide a tax calculation and payment service, the service provider computer
3 system comprising:

4 a web server to receive transaction requests from subscriber computer systems associated
5 with corresponding merchants who have subscribed to the tax calculation and payment service of
6 the service provider;

7 one or more additional servers having a services module executable in the one or more
8 additional servers, the services module comprising:

9 a first module to store transaction data of the transaction requests in at least one
10 first file;

11 a tax computation module to compute tax due on transactions corresponding to
12 the transaction data and to store the tax due in at least one second file; and

13 a tax remission module to convert the at least one second file from a first format
14 to a second format for use by an automated clearinghouse network, and the tax remission module
15 to transmit the at least one second file in the second format to a financial institution for remission
16 of funds relating to the tax due.

1 21. (Previously Presented) The service provider computer system of claim 20,
2 wherein the services module further comprises an automated tax return generation module to
3 generate and electronically file a periodic tax return for each merchant.

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1 22. (Previously Presented) The service provider computer system of claim 21,
2 wherein the services module further comprises a reporting module to report tax information
3 related to the transactions to one or more government authorities.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The service provider computer system of claim 20,
2 wherein the first format comprises an XML format.

1 24. (Previously Presented) The service provider computer system of claim 10,
2 wherein the modular architecture further comprises a fifth device having tax return generation
3 programming to generate and file a periodic tax return for each merchant.

1 25. (Previously Presented) The service provider system of claim 23, wherein the
2 second format comprises a TXP-based format.